

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PM-09 H-02 L-03 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 NIC-01 RSR-01 /101 W

----- 009036

R 090930 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2276

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 2825

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN JA CH TW

SUBJ: JAPAN- PRC AVIATION RELATIONS AND EFFECT ON TAIWAN

REF TOKYO 2415

1. ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS, FONMIN OHIRA TOLD DIET MARCH 7 THAT JAPAN WANTS TO MAINTAIN EXISTING CIVIL AIR LINK WITH TAIWAN EVEN AFTER JAPAN HAS CONCLUDED CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT WITH CHINA. OHIRA REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT TAIWAN ISSUE WAS NOT A MATTER TO BE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN JAPAN AND CHINA.
2. KAZUO OGURA, DEPUTY HEAD OF FONOFF CHINA DIV, TOLD EMBOFF MAR 8 THAT PRESS REPORTS OF OHIRA'S COMMENTS ACCURATE AS FAR AS THEY WENT, BUT THAT ONE IMPORTANT PART OF OHIRA'S REMARKS HAD BEEN OMITTED. THIS WAS STATEMENT THAT AIR LINK AND TAIWAN RELATIONS IN GENERAL " WOULD BE MAINTAINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FRAMEWORK PROVIDED IN THE JOINT PRC- JAPAN COMMUNIQUE." OGURA INTERPRETED THIS TO MEAN THAT JAPAN- TAIWAN LINKS ARE CONDITIONAL ON UNDERSTANDING ON PART OF CHINESE, AND THAT LEGALLY SPEAKING JAPAN COULD NOT OBJECT TO WHAT PRC HAD TO SAY ABOUT JAPAN- TAIWAN RELATIONS.
3. OGURA ALSO NOTED THAT THERE WERE OF COURSE MANY PRO-
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TAIWAN " HAWKS" IN THE DIET AND THAT OHIRA HAD OBVIOUSLY HAD THIS FACT VERY MUCH IN MIND WHEN HE INITIALLY NOTED THAT JAPAN WANTS TO MAINTAIN ITS AIR LINKS WITH TAIWAN.

4. SIX MEMBER JAPANESE DELEGATION ARRIVED IN PEKING MAR 8 TO BEGIN FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRC ON AN AVIATION PACT.

5. COMMENT: OHIRA STATEMENT AGAIN AVOIDS A CLEAR DEFINITION OF HOW GOJ WILL HANDLE TAIWAN ASPECT OF AVIATION NEGOTIATIONS BY EXPRESSING WISH TO MAINTAIN AVIATION RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN, YET IMPLYING THIS DEPENDENT ON UNDERSTANDING OF CHINESE.

INGERSOLL

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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